

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6857

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 402

NODIS

PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF

SUBJ: NUCLEAR TALKS

1. AMBASSADOR HOSTED AEB CHAIRMAN ROUX FOR LUNCH MARCH 2. LOCKE AND MENZEL ATTENDED (LEWIS ON ROUTE TO US). AFTER GENERAL EXCHANGE, TOWARD THE END OF THE CONVERSATION ROUX VOLUNTEERED SOME INSIGHTS INTO SAG'S CONSIDERATION OF US NUCLEAR PROPOSALS.

2. ROUX APPEARED TO BE GENUINELY SATISFIED WITH LAST WEEK'S DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN US AND SOUTH AFRICAN EXPERTS AT PELINDABA. HE OFFERED TWO OBSERVATIONS ON THE STATE OF SOUTH AFRICAN THINKING IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE TALKS.

A. HE SAID THAT IF FOLLOW-UP POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO BE LIMIED TO THE THREE ISSUES DISCUSSED AT PELINDABA (EFFECT OF LEGISLATION ON US-SOUTH AFRICAN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, PROPOSAL FOR FUELING SAFARI, AND VALINDABA SAFEGUARDS R&D PROGRAM), HE WOULD VIEW A SETTLEMENT TO BE WITHIN REACH. HE JUDGED, THOUGH, THAT THE POLITICAL LEVELS OF THE SAG WOULD NOT WISH TO LIMIT NEGOTIATIONS TO THE NUCLEAR ISSUES RAISED BY VORSTER IN HIS OCTOBER LETTER, BUT

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WOULD SEEK TO INCLUDE MATTERS WHICH WERE BEYOND ROUX'S PROVINCE.

B. HE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT THE US HAD NOT CHOSEN TO BEGIN THE TECHNICAL TALKS WITH A TOKEN OF GOOD FAITH TO ENHANCE THE PROCESS, NAMELY SHIPMENT OF ENOUGH FUEL FOR SAFARI TO PERMIT RESUMPTION

OF OPERATIONS. HE STRESSED THAT FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES THE REACTOR IS OUT OF COMMISSION.

3. WE DID NOT RESPOND TO HIS FIRST POINT DIRECTLY. ON THE SECOND, WE INDICATED THAT WE HAD BEEN CONSTRAINED FROM PROVIDING HEU BY LACK OF ANY INDICATION OF SAG MOVEMENT TOWARD MEETING THE CONDITIONS POSED IN THE SEPTEMBER DEMARCHE. ROUX ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION TO REMIND US OF THE CONSIDERABLE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY US REFUSAL TO SUPPLY TECHNOLOGY FOR THE ENRICHMENT PROJECT. FINALLY, HE REVIEWED HIS PERSONAL DISAPPOINTMENT AT SOUTH AFRICA'S EXCLUSION FROM THE IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS. ON THIS POINT, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED AND ROUX AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL RECOURSE AGAINST THE EXPULSION.

4. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION, ROUX STATED THE FOLLOWING ON VALINDABA: (A) THE COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT (SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN 1983, CAPACITY STILL SECRET) WILL BE AN ADD-ON TO THE VALINDABA PILOT PLANT, I.E., THE ADD-ON AND THE PILOT PLANT WILL FORM ONE, INTEGRATED, COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT. (B) IN VIEW OF THIS AND THE PREVIOUS SAG COMMITMENT TO PLACE THE COMMERCIAL ENRICHMENT PLANT UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS, SUCH SAFEGUARDS WOULD INCLUDE THE PRESENT PILOT PLANT IRRESPECTIVE OF OTHER
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COMMITMENTS. (C) THE US SAFEGUARDS PROPOSAL IS REASONABLE AND HE FELT "OPTIMISTIC" ABOUT IT. THE R&D PROGRAM WOULD SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE IN EVALUATING SAFEGUARD MEASURES WHICH COULD BE REDIRECTED IF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION WAS IN DANGER OF BEING COMPROMISED.

5. BEFORE COMING TO LUNCH, ROUX HAD MET WITH MINISTER OF MINES BOTHA, AND HAD SEEN FOURIE BRIEFLY. HE MAY ALSO HAVE INTENDED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH FOURIE TODAY, SINCE FOURIE WAS TAKING THE SAME PLANE TO PRETORIA TO MEET WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER POSSIBLY TO REVIEW THE NUCLEAR ISSUE. THUS, CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSALS HAS REACHED MINISTERIAL LEVEL, PROBABLY WITH A POSITIVE ENDORSEMENT FROM THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. GIVEN THE NEED FOR FOURIE TO TRAVEL TO PRETORIA (HE DOES NOT PLAN TO RETURN TO CAPE TOWN UNTIL SOMETIME FRIDAY), IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE WILL GET ANYTHING MORE OUT OF HIM THIS WEEK, WHILE LOCKE IS STILL HERE. THERE IS ALSO THE NEED FOR THE TWO BOTHAS TO CONSULT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE WE ARE TOLD MUCH MORE. WE CANNOT WAIT INDEFINITELY FOR A FORMAL RESPONSE, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT OUR PROPOSALS ARE RECEIVING THE

SAG'S SERIOUS ATTENTION ON A REASONABLY EXPEDITIOUS
BASIS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, LOCKE AND MENZEL
WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON OVER THE WEEKEND, LEAVING
IT FOR FOURIE TO COMMUNICATE NEXT ON THE SUBJECT WITH
THE AMBASSADOR.
BOWDLER

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